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MGCSA EVENTS

AUGUST 15
MGCSA CHAMPIONSHIP
Rutgers Bay Lake Lodge
Host: Joe Wolner

SEPTEMBER 15
MTGF / UM FIELD DAY
TROE Center
Host: Brian Horgan, Ph.D.

OCTOBER 3
WEE ONE FUNDRAISER
North Oaks Golf Club
Host: Jack MacKenzie, CGCS

OCTOBER 17
MGCSA FALL SHOOT
Minnesota Horse & Hunt Club
Host: Tom Proshok

NOVEMBER 18
PESTICIDE RECERTIFICATION
University of Minnesota
St. Paul Campus
(See Page 28)

DECEMBER 7
MGCSA AWARDS
& RECOGNITION BANQUET
Brackett's Crossing Country Club
Host: Tom Proshok

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ABOUT THE COVER

A view of the 4th hole at Theodore Wirth GC after the May 22 tornado which grazed the golf course on its way into North Minneapolis. At least 50 trees are being removed from the course as a result of the storm.



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SALES
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the Midst of the Wettest Spring Since '03

By Paul Diegnau, CGCS

Does it seem to you like it never stops raining these days? I just heard on the radio that this spring is the wettest since 2003. This is not helping the cause for those of us attempting to nurse turf back to health. But such is the life of a golf course superintendent! As I have said many times before, Mother Nature holds all the cards. For all I know, by the time you read this column we could be dealing with 90 degree temperatures and entering the throes of a drought!

I recently had the opportunity to participate in the Vendor Appreciation Day hosted by Superintendent Jake Schmitz and the staff at Olympic Hills in Eden Prairie on May 17. The golf course was in excellent mid-summer shape and very enjoyable to play. In addition to golf and lunch in the clubhouse, MGCSA vendor representatives Joe Churchill and Luke Dant led a discussion on the 2012 MN Hospitality Night at the GIS as well as an overview of the upcoming digital transformation of our Hole Notes magazine. Bob Fitch, Executive Director of MNLA, was also on hand to discuss trends and issues affecting past Northern Green Expos and changes planned for the upcoming 2012 event. This was a good event and we would like to see more participation in the future. Thank you Jake for sharing your facility with the MGCSA.

The MGCSA 2011 Turfgrass Research Benefit appears to be on its way to another successful run at raising funds for research. As I write this at least 38 foursomes worth of tee times are sold with more to follow. None of this would be possible without the participation and generosity of many of our member clubs. Thank you!

By the time you read this, several of our association golf events will have come and gone. The Spring Mixer was held at the New Prague Golf Club on May 24. As you know, this event is held annually for our Assistant Superintendent members, though anyone is welcome to participate. The weather cooperated and many assistants were able to get away from their clubs and enjoy some camaraderie and a relaxing round of golf. Thank you to Superintendent Jeff Pint and the staff at New Prague GC for hosting this event.

The 2011 MGCSA Research Scramble was played on June 13. Thank you to Superintendent Curtiss Conkright and the staff at the Victory Links Golf Club for hosting this important event. Please make a special effort to thank your fellow members who so graciously offer their clubs to host our events. This ongoing participation keeps our association financially viable and socially active.

This year we travel to the Brainerd area for the 2011 MGCSA Championship. The August 15th event will be hosted by Superintendent Joe Wollner at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge. Make plans to participate. I hope to see you there.

The Hole Notes magazine is in the process of being archived by the Turfgrass Information Center at the Michigan State University Libraries. This will be a lengthy process as their intent is to archive the newsletters of all local chapters from across the country. I have been told our collection will probably be accessible sometime this fall. In addition to this historical archive, there is a wealth of turfgrass information available on this website. It can be accessed by most members of the GCSAA via their website. I encourage you to check it out.

On a final note, Bob Mugaas, University of Minnesota Extension Educator, is retiring at the end of this year after 34 years of service. He has been actively educating our membership over these years and his knowledge and wisdom will be missed. I have a feeling that post-2011, you will find him on the waters of Lake Minnetonka hunting the elusive state record large-mouth bass. Make sure to congratulate him on his upcoming retirement and wish him well.

- Until next month,
Paul Diegnau, CGCS

HOLE NOTES

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Hemquist, Metz, Stafne and Stocker Win Spring Assistants' Mixer at New Prague

Forty players teed it up on an overcast day at New Prague Golf Club for the annual Assistants' Spring Mixer on May 24. Considering this year's golfing weather, it was a great day to play!

Host Superintendent Jeff Pint and his staff had the course in great shape. Special thanks to golf professional Kurt Ruehling and his staff for their help in making the Assistants' Spring Mixer successful.

Guest Speaker Kathy O'Brien, FICO, gave valuable information to the assistants on their career advancement path. Kathy ran an interactive session with the attendees on a variety of topics relating to networking, resume writing and interview preparation. The assistants received some interesting things to think of.

The winning team of Arik Hemquist, Brackett's Crossing CC; Joel Metz, Inver Wood GC; Jeremy Stafne, Turfwerks, and Sly Stocker, New Prague GC shot a 27-under-par score of 117.

In the midst of this wacky Spring, Hemquist is quietly having himself quite a year. His wife Randi gave birth to Stella Marie on March 4, (See photo on Page 18) and now he played part on another winning team at the Assistants' Spring Mixer. Congratulations, Arik!

Finishing in second place was the Glencoe CC team consisting of Jeff Vinkemeier, Gregg Urban, Nate Hahn and Manley Vinkemeier. They finished with a score of 120.

Thanks to our 2011 sponsors we had six field events. The closest-to-the-pin winners were; Ben Walker, Somerset CC; Manley Vinkemeier, Glencoe CC; Nick



KEN ADAMS, an Assistant Superintendent at Brackett's Crossing watched his putt roll in the hole for a net double-eagle at the Spring Mixer.



THE WINNING SPRING MIXER TEAM

Pictured from left, Joel Metz, Inver Wood GC; Arik Hemquist, Brackett's Crossing CC; Jeremy Stafne, Turfwerks, and Sly Stocker, New Prague GC, shot a 27-under-par score of 117.

Folk, The Minikahda Club, and Troy Tschida, Medina Golf & CC. Jim O'Neill, Cycle Works Golf Supply, sank the longest putt for the day. Eric Rasmussen, Southview CC hit the longest drive.



NICK FOLK, an Assistant Superintendent at The Minikahda Club was one of many assistants participating in this year's event.



JEFF PINT

Host Superintendent at New Prague GC

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Recycling Wash Pads are Effective

By JUSTIN BICEK

Assistant Superintendent
North Oaks Golf Club

A common term used in the world of social media, Facebook in particular, where one randomly browses through their friends' profiles in hopes of a glimpse of new photos and personal information, is called 'creeping'. For many, I'm sure this is a relatively new term but to a generation that has used Facebook since its conception, 'creeping' is thrown around quite frequently.

'Creeping' relates to our industry in a variety of ways with Turfnet being the most common example. We look for topics we can relate to by browsing through past and present posts. In times of trial or need for answers, our anticipation of someone answering our question can seem to consume our time. However, while waiting for replies, we find ourselves veering off topic to view user profiles, reading about their interests, family, pets and hobbies.

While on Turfnet I find myself focusing on inventions, tools and tricks of my fellow peers and it never ceases to amaze me that we are such a resourceful and intelligent group of professionals. And for Mendakota Country Club in Mendota Heights, Bob McKinney, CGCS, is a prime example.

In a recent meeting Mr. McKinney told me about his simple but extremely effective equipment wash pad. Within two years of receiving a new Turf Management facility, Bob realized that his unsightly and sewage smelling site didn't match up with his new building so he developed a concept to improve the area.

The pictures on the right show McKinney's simple wash pad system. He started by sinking a 200 gallon basin into his desired location making sure the area around had sufficient slope. To catch the clippings, a custom made top was put on the basin which would hold a standard screen used for melting products into a sprayer.

The next step was to try and find a way to re-use the water in the basin. He installed a Submersible Grinder 2 hp pump capable of pushing 41 GPM and ran 2" PVC to a previously un-irrigated area 30 yards away. The end of the line houses a quick coupler and impact head that



The pictures above show Bob' McKinney's simple wash pad system. He started by sinking a 200 gallon basin into his desired location making sure the area around had sufficient slope. To catch the clippings, a custom made top was put on the basin which would hold a standard screen used for melting products into a sprayer. The rinsate is then discharged on to the turf.

turns on by way of the float on the pump.

Mendakota Country Club has been using this system since it was installed in 2001 and is still using the same pump. They try to minimize the amount of sand entering the pump by rinsing in a turf area first and the only maintenance needed a few years ago was to reverse the

impeller.

Mr. McKinney's wash system is a great example of the many inventions that make our jobs easier and more effective. I'd like to thank him for sharing his idea and taking the time to tell me about it.

What You Need to Know About the 2013 FCC Narrowbanding Mandate

By LEE COLE

Professional Wireless Communications

Today, most land mobile radio (LMR) systems in the VHF (150-174 MHz) and UHF (421-512 MHz) bands use channel bandwidths of 25 kHz. In an effort to free more communications spectrum, the FCC has mandated that all licensees using wideband 25 kHz channel bandwidths convert to narrowband 12.5 kHz channel bandwidths by January 1, 2013.

Narrowbanding is not optional. You cannot simply ignore the FCC's narrowbanding rules. If you are using the VHF and/or UHF land mobile frequencies and are not currently operating narrowband 12.5 kHz channel bandwidth, you will be affected. Your existing equipment may or may not be capable to operate at 12.5 kHz. Your existing wideband equipment will need to be modified or replaced by January 1, 2013, and organizations that do not meet the deadline face the loss of radio communications.

Legal or punitive actions might also

apply.

Many current model LMR radios are already "dual bandwidth" capable - meaning they are currently operating in 25 kHz wideband but can be reprogrammed to

"If you are using the VHF and/or UHF land mobile frequencies and are not currently operating narrowband 12.5 kHz channel bandwidth, you will be affected."

the 12.5 kHz narrowband frequency bandwidth. Therefore, meeting the FCC narrowband mandate does not necessarily mean buying new radios.

In some cases, radios operating narrowband will not exhibit the same "talk distance" as you are used to with wide-

band. Particularly if your radio communications is "mission critical," you should review your communications requirements and plan for needed changes before the January 1, 2013 deadline. Using mixed wideband and narrowband radios on the same frequency is not recommended. Voice communication from a wideband radio to a narrowband radio will sound loud, distorted and possibly inaudible.

Organizations need to start planning now to migrate to narrowband systems by assessing their current communications requirements and radio equipment and applying for new or modified FCC licenses.

(Editor's Note: Professional Wireless Communications can assist your organization to help you make informed decisions about how you can transition your communications system to meet the narrowbanding requirements. If you have further questions, please contact either Lee Cole at 952-746-2500 or your current radio communications provider.)

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Superior Turf Services Inc. owner Larry Thornton, right, with STS representative Matt Schmid relaxing during MGCSA Vendor Appreciation Day at Olympic Hills Golf Club on May 17.



At **Vendor Appreciation Day** are, from left, Jim O'Neill, Cycle Works Golf Supply; Ken Rost, Frost Services, and Mike Kelly, TerraMax.



Frontier Ag & Turf's Larry Gorman warms up before the round at Olympic Hills Golf Club during MGCSA Vendor Appreciation Day.

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